



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2000

APR 24 2003

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with section 1082 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993, the Secretary of Defense has determined that it is in the national security interest of the United States for DoD to participate directly in the Paris Air Show 2003 (PARIS 03), scheduled for 15-22 June 2003 in Le Bourget, France. The enclosed report, submitted in accordance with section 1082, explains why participation in this event is in the national security interest, gives a description of the arms control implications of participating in this event and provides an estimate of the costs that DoD will incur.

Direct DoD participation will be limited to the static display of six tactical and strategic lift aircraft that flew in Operation Iraqi Freedom and a DoD technology demonstration display. No flying demonstrations are planned. The Department will limit personnel representation below the General Officer level or civilian equivalent.

I am sending similar letters to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of our other defense oversight committees.

With best wishes, I am

Yours truly,

Douglas J. Feith

Enclosure: As stated

cc: The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Member, Committee on Armed Services



**Report on DoD Direct Participation
Paris Air Show (PARIS 03)
15-22 June 2003 in Le Bourget, France**

1. Justification: PARIS 03 is scheduled for 15-22 June 2003 in Le Bourget, France. The Secretary of Defense has determined that direct DoD participation in this event is in the U.S. national security interest. Direct DoD participation will contribute to U.S. foreign policy and defense cooperation objectives.

DoD support for this event will showcase U.S. military equipment and personnel fresh from decisive combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom. DoD participation at this exhibition will serve as a visible symbol of U.S. defense capability, relationships and regional presence.

Direct DoD participation contributes to our security cooperation strategy.

2. Arms Control Implications: DoD participation in this event helps implement U.S. national security policy and is consistent with the Administration's policy on Conventional Arms Transfers. Many representatives attending this event will be interested in U.S. systems. It should be noted that the demonstration of specific U.S. equipment at exhibitions such as this will in no way undermine the case-by-case review that the Administration undertakes before approving the sale of U.S. defense systems. Participation in this trade exhibition will not result in sales of U.S. equipment that are destabilizing to the region.

3. Estimate of Costs: The estimated cost of DoD participation in this event, including transportation, personnel per diem and equipment displays will not exceed \$500,000.